IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 – 11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method to identify, monitor and/or remove CD4+ CD25+ regulatory T cells from human blood comprising the step of contacting the human blood with ligands specifically binding to the CD4 and CD25, and/or CTL-A4 entities on the T cells, whereby CD4+ CD25+ regulatory T cells present in human blood are identified, monitored, and/or removed from the human blood.

13 – 23. (Cancelled).

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said ligands specifically binding to the CD4 and CD25 and/or CTL-A4 entities on the T cells are anti-CD4 antibodies and anti-CD25 antibodies and/or anti-CTL-A4 antibodies.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, whereby CD4+ CD25+ T cells are removed from the human blood.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said method further comprises utilizing immunoadsorption methods.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said method further comprises utilizing a stimulating agent or antigen presenting cells.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said method further comprises the step of testing the CD4+ CD25+ T cells for a regulatory property of CD4+ CD25+ T cells.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said step of testing the CD4+ CD25+ T cells comprises analyzing the CD4+ CD25+ T cells for a property selected from the group consisting of:

(a) constitutive expression of CTLA-4;

(b) being non-proliferative following stimulation via the T cell receptor;

(c) being in an anergic state;

(d) being in an anergic state that is partially reversed by IL-15;

(e) being in an anergic state that is partially reversed by IL-2 and IL-15;

(f) releasing IL-10 following stimulation with allogeneic mature dendritic cells;

(g) releasing IL-10 following stimulation with anti-CD28 antibodies and immobilized anti-CD3 antibodies;

(h) suppressing the activation and proliferation of CD4+ T cells in a coculture experiment;

(i) suppressing the activation and proliferation of CD8+ T cells in a coculture experiment; and

(j) having a cytokine profile that differs from that of CD4+ $CD25^{-}$ T cells.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said method comprises analyzing the CD4+ CD25+ T cells for the property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of CD4+ T cells in a coculture experiment, wherein said analyzing comprises determining whether said property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of CD4+ T cells is contact-dependent.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said method comprises the step of analyzing the CD4+ CD25+ T cells for the property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of CD4+ T cells in a coculture experiment, wherein said analyzing comprises the use of CD4+ CD25+ T cells that have been activated and fixed.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said method comprises the step of analyzing the CD4+ CD25+ T cells for a cytokine profile of predominant secretion of IL-10 and only low levels of secretion of IL-2, IL-4, and IFN-γ.